Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Claims 1 to 4 (Canceled).

5. (Previously presented) A method of protecting a patient from embolization during a percutaneous procedure on a vessel, comprising:

providing a guidewire having proximal and distal ends, a proximal and a distal region, an expandable filter associated with the distal region, and a removable sheath which covers the expandable filter and is slidable over the guidewire;

introducing the distal end of the guidewire into the patient's vessel with the sheath covering the expandable filter, and positioning the filter downstream of a treatment site, wherein the sheath and guidewire cross the treatment site;

expanding the expandable filter in the vessel;

removing the sheath from the vessel;

advancing a treatment catheter over the guidewire to position the treatment catheter at the treatment site; and

expanding the vessel at the treatment site, wherein embolic material is generated and captured before the expandable filter is removed from the patient's vessel.

6. (Original) The method of claim 5 wherein the expandable filter includes a filter mesh.

7. (Previously presented) The method of claim 5 wherein the filter is deployed before the treatment catheter is advanced over the guidewire.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Original) The method of claim 5 wherein the filter is deployed before the vessel is expanded.

10. (Canceled)

11. (Previously presented) The method of claim 5 wherein at least a portion of the filter is self-expanding.

12. (Previously presented) A percutaneous system for treating a vessel at a region of stenosis and filtering emboli comprising:

a guidewire having proximal and distal ends, a proximal and distal region, and an expandable filter associated with the distal region;

a sheath which is shaped to receive the guidewire and retain the filter in a contracted condition, and to slidably release the filter to an expanded condition when the sheath moves toward the proximal end of the guidewire;

a catheter having a proximal and a distal end, a proximal and a distal region, and a lumen which slidably receives the guidewire, the catheter

having a treatment device including a radially expandable member associated with the distal region; and

wherein, during use, the guidewire is positioned across the region of stenosis within the vessel, the filter is expanded, the vessel is expanded within the region of stenosis with the radially expandable member of the treatment device and wherein embolic material is generated and captured before the expandable filter is removed from the vessel.

13. (Previously presented) The system of claim 12 wherein at least a portion of the filter is self-expanding.

14. (Currently amended) The system of claim ~~12~~ 20 wherein the ~~filter~~ metal comprises nitinol ~~material~~.

15. (Previously presented) The method of claim 5 wherein the treatment site is a stenosis and wherein the step of expanding the vessel comprises urging the stenosis radially outwardly to squeeze the stenosis against a wall of the vessel.

16. (New) The method of claim 5 wherein the filter comprises metal.

17. (New) The method of claim 16 wherein the metal comprises nitinol.

18. (New) The method of claim 6 wherein the filter mesh comprises a metal.

19. (New) The method of claim 18 wherein the metal comprises nitinol.

20. (New) The system of claim 12 wherein the filter comprises metal.

21. (New) The system of claim 12 wherein the filter comprises a filter mesh.

22. (New) The system of claim 21 wherein the filter mesh comprises a metal.

23. (New) The system of claim 22 wherein the metal comprises nitinol.